

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 HEW-02 PC-01 /039 W

----- 004724

R 141855Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4721

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PE

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF HEALTH COMMENTS ON FAMILY PLANNING

1. IN ANOTHER OF A SERIES OF SPEECHES BY GOP MINISTERS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES, GEN. FERNANDO MIRO QUIESADA, HEALTH MINISTER, ADDRESSED NATION EVENING OF MARCH 31. SPEECH ITSELF WAS UNREMARKABLE AS IT NOTED EXPECTED GOP INVESTMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTOR, REPORTED ON NUMBER OF NEW HOSPITALS PLANNED, TALKED OF SOCIALIZED MEDICINE, FORMATION OF SOCIAL PROPERTY ENTERPRISES IN HEALTH FIELD AND OTHER PREDICTABLE TOPICS.

2. OF GREATER INTEREST WAS TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH FOLLOWED DURING WHICH MINISTER RESPONDED TO QUESTION ON BIRTH CONTROL. HE STATED THAT GOP WILL MAINTAIN ITS POLICY OF "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND FAMILY EDUCATION SO THAT PERUVIANS CAN FREELY EXERCISE THIS RIGHT (OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD)". HE FURTHER STATED THAT "PERU IS QUITE LARGE AND HAS TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ITS POPULATION SHOULD, THEREFORE, GROW SO THAT WE WILL HAVE THE NECESSARY HUMAN POTENTIAL TO EXPLOIT THE GAMUT OF RICHES WITH WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS FAVORED." HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY BIG POWERS OPPOSE GROWTH IN POPULATION OF PERU AND ANSWERED "BECAUSE THERE EXISTS AN ASOCIACION PERUANA DE PROTECCION FAMILIAR (APPF) WHICH WE KICKED

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OUT OR FORCED TO LEAVE AND AN IPPF, THE INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATION THAT CARRIES A EUPHEMISTIC NAME TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT INDEFENSIBLE ACTIVITIES." (COMMENT: HE MINISTER HIMSELF WAS REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR NOT TERMINATING APPF ACTIVITIES FOR ALMOST A YEAR AFTER HAVING BEEN TOLD TO DO SO. THUS, THE ATTACK WAS PROBABLY INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR PRESIDENT VELASCO'S BENEFIT.)

3. MINISTER ALSO STATED THAT "THOSE IMPERIALIST POWERS WANT US TO CONTINUE BEING UNDERDEVELOPED AND THAT THE MEANS AND RESOURCES THAT EXIST IN OUR COUNTRY NOT BE DEVELOPED BECAUSE IF THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES BEGIN TO HAVE A CONSCIENCE AND INCREASE THEIR HUMAN POTENTIAL, THOSE POWERS MUST BE LOSING SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT." HE STATED THAT REVOLUTION BEING "HUMANISTIC, LIBERTARIAN, SOCIALISTIC AND REVOLUTIONARY" RECOGNIZED HUMAN DIGNITY. FOR THAT REASON, HE SAID, PERUVIAN COUPLES CAN HAVE WHATEVER SIZE FAMILY THEY WANT, STATING THAT HE HIMSELF HAS ONLY TWO CHILDREN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT GOP SUPPORTS "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD" AS OPPOSED TO "BIRTH CONTROL" AND THAT GOP POLICY MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADEQUATE EDUCATION BECAUSE "UNDERDEVELOPMENT IS, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, MENTAL (IT IS) DUE TO LACK OF EDUCATION WHICH (IN PAST) HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED (BECAUSE IT WAS NOT IN) THE INTERESTS OF THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES." HE CLOSED BY QUIPPING "THEY HAS US CONVINCED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TO EXPLOIT THE OIL, YOU HAD TO BE BLONDE AND BLUE-EYED AND THAT INDIANS AND MESTIZOS (CHOLOS) AND NEGROES COULDN'T DO IT."

4. COMMENT: SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF SPEECH WAS THAT IT REPRESENTED FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN FAVOR OF SOME FORM OF FAMILY PLANNING ("RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD"), ALTHOUGH MINISTER TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT "DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD" AND "BIRTH CONTROL" AND STATEMENT CLOAKED IN ATTACK AGAINST IMPERIALIST MOTIVATIONS. WHILE ATTACK IS UNDESIRABLE, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN TERMS OF BOTH REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC AND MINISTER'S PERSONAL AMBITIONS (I.E., HIS DESIRE TO BE NEXT CHIEF OF AIR FORCE). END COMMENT.
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5. INTERESTING TETE-A TETE OCCURRED WHEN LOCAL UPI REPRESENTATIVE HUBERT CAM ASKED MINISTER IF HE WAS SURPRISED BY ARTICLE IN LOCAL MAGAZINE CARETAS (WHICH DETAILED SQUALID CONDITIONS IN DOS DE MAYO HOSPITAL AND MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSE OF DEPORTATION OF CO-EDITOR ENRIQUE ZILERI AND MAGAZINE'S CLOSURE) AND WHETHER

HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH OR HAD HAD CHANCE TO VISIT
THIS AND OTHER HOSPITALS. AFTER AWKWARD MOMENT OF
SILENCE, MINISTER ASKED CAM IF HE WAS PERUVIAN, TO
WHICH CAM ANSWERED IN AFFIRMATIVE. MINISTER THEN
STATED "AND DO YOU THINK THAT THE MINISTER OF HEALTH OF
PERU IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DOS DE MAYO AND THE OTHER
HOSPITALS." HE WENT ON TO ATTACK "MERCENARY JOURNALISTS"
WHO ATTACK A GOVERNMENT BY USING THE SICK AND AGED. HE
CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT CARETAS USED "FORGED" PHOTOS
TO PROVE THAT PATIENTS AT DOS DE MAYO ARE TREATED IN
"DEPLORABLE" SURROUNDINGS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, BIRTH CONTROL, SPEECHES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA03037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750130-0399
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750453/aaaabxel.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER OF HEALTH COMMENTS ON FAMILY PLANNING
TAGS: EGEN, SPOP, PE, (MIRO QUIESADA, FERNANDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006